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Reassessment of the genus *Maro* O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1907, with the description of a new genus (Aranei: Linyphiidae)

Пересмотр рода *Maro* O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1907 с описанием нового рода (Aranei: Linyphiidae)

Andrei V. Tanasevitch
А.В. Танасевич

A.N. Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution, Russian Academy of Sciences, Leninsky prospekt 33, Moscow 119071, Russia. E-mail: tanasevitch@gmail.com, and-tan@mail.ru

Институт проблем экологии и эволюции им. А.Н. Северцова РАН, Ленинский проспект 33, Москва 119071, Россия.

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КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА: Araneae, таксономия, ревизия, Micronetinae, пауки-пигмеи.

ABSTRACT. The species composition of the micronetine spider genus *Maro* O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1907 is reconsidered, the diversity being restricted to 13 species. The diagnosis of the genus is clarified and extended. A new monotypic genus, *Boreomaro* gen.n., is established for *Maro borealis* Eskov, 1991. In addition, further two species of *Maro* are preliminary transferred to *Oreonetides* Strand, 1901, i.e. *Oreonetides amplus* (Dondale et Buckle, 2001), comb.n. and *O. bulbosus* (Zhao et Li, 2014), comb.n.

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РЕЗЮМЕ. Определён состав рода *Maro* O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1907, включающий 13 видов. Для *Maro borealis* Eskov, 1991 установлен новый род *Boreomaro* gen.n. Два вида *Maro* предварительно перенесены в *Oreonetides* Strand, 1901: *Oreonetides amplus* (Dondale et Buckle, 2001), comb.n. и *O. bulbosus* (Zhao et Li, 2014), comb.n.

Introduction

The genus *Maro* was established by Pickard-Cambridge [1907] for *Maro minutus* O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1907, one of the smallest linyphiid species in the European spider fauna. Saaristo [1971] revised the genus, restricted its diversity to six species, including two he described as new: *M. flavescens* (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1873), *M. lehtineni* Saaristo, 1971, *M. lepidus* Casemir, 1961, *M. minutus* O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1907, *M. sublestus* Falconer, 1915, and *M. thaleri* Saaristo, 1971. The latter species, which was known from a female holotype only, was subsequently transferred to *Pseudocarorita* Wunderlich, 1980 [Wunderlich, 1980]. In the revision of *Maro*, Saaristo [1971] described and illustrated in due detail the structure of the secondary genital organs of both sexes, as well as introduced a few new terms to the genital morphological nomenclature, e.g., column, embolus proper, and suprategulum [Saaristo, 1971].

Three species of *Maro* were later described from Siberia: *M. saaristoi* Eskov, 1980, *M. sibiricus* Eskov, 1980 [Eskov, 1980], and *M. borealis* Eskov, 1991 [Eskov, 1991]. Four species were added from the Russian Far East: *M. bureensis* Tanasevitch, 2006, *M. khabarum* Tanasevitch, 2006, *M. pansibiricus* Tanasevitch, 2006, and *M. ussuricus* Tanasevitch, 2006 [Tanasevitch, 2006a]. Of the two *Maro* known from Japan, *M. perpusillus* Saito, 1984 and *M. lautus* Saito, 1984 [Saito, 1984], the latter has recently been transferred to *Erigomicronus* Tanasevitch, 2018 [Tanasevitch, 2018]. One species, *M. bulbosus* Zhao et Li, 2014, was described based on females from the Yunnan Province, People's Republic of China [Zhao, Li, 2014]. Only two species are known from the Nearctic Region: *M. amplus* Dondale et Buckle, 2001 and *M. nearcticus* Dondale et Buckle, 2001 [Dondale, Buckle, 2001]. As a result, the genus *Maro* currently contains 16 species.

A new detailed morphological analysis of the genitalia of both sexes of *Maro* species shows the genus to be fairly homogeneous, with the exception of three species, *M. amplus*, *M. borealis* and *M. bulbosus*. Their status is discussed below.

The objective of the present study is to provide an updated taxonomic account of the genus *Maro*, also refining its species composition.

Material and methods

The specimens used in this study have been borrowed from the following museums: Zoological Museum, Turku University, Turku, Finland (MTU), National Science Muse-

Table. Some somatic characters of *Maro* species, based on the literature data and measurements of available specimens from museums and personal collections.
Таблица. Некоторые соматические признаки пауков рода *Maro* по результатам промеров экземпляров из музеев и частных коллекций, а также по литературным источникам.

Species	**Tibial dorsal spines**	**TmI**	**Size** (mm)
1. *Maro bureensis* Tanasevitch, 2006	2221	0.36–0.55	1.58–1.80
2. *M. flavescens* (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1873)	2222	0.40	1.20–1.50
3. *M. khabarum* Tanasevitch, 2006	2221	0.32–0.36	1.48–1.58
4. *M. lehtineni* Saaristo, 1971	2222	0.36–0.40	0.90–1.30
5. *M. lepidus* Casemir, 1961	2222	0.40–0.49	1.40–1.80
6. *M. minutus* O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1907	2222	0.30–0.49	1.10–1.40
7. *M. nearcticus* Dondale et Buckle, 2001	2221	0.50–0.56	1.25–1.64
8. *M. pansibiricus* Tanasevitch, 2006	2221	0.38–0.43	1.35–1.65
9. *M. perpusillus* Saito, 1984	2221	0.33–0.42	1.40–1.80
10. *M. saaristoi* Eskov, 1980	2221	0.48–0.51	1.70–2.05
11. *M. sibiricus* Eskov, 1980	2221	0.49–0.53	1.60–1.85
12. *M. sublestus* Falconer, 1915	2222	0.40–0.49	1.10–1.60
13. *M. ussuricus* Tanasevitch, 2006	2221	0.35–0.52	1.26–1.60

um, Tokyo, Japan (NSMT), Zoological Museum of the Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia (ZMMU), and from the personal collections of Donald Buckle, Saskatchewan, Canada (CDB), and Andrei Tanasevitch, Moscow, Russia (CAT). Specimens preserved in 70% ethanol were studied using a MBS-9 stereomicroscope. Drawings were executed with a drawing tube. Photographs were taken using a SEM JEOL JSM-5200 scanning microscope at the MTU in cooperation with Michael Saaristo in 2006, a year before he died. All measurements are given in millimeters. All scale lines in the figures correspond to 0.1 mm, except those in SEM micrographs which are in micrometers (μm). The terminology of the structures of the copulatory organs mainly follows that of Merrett [1963], as well as that of the authors mentioned in the abbreviations below. The chaetotaxy is given in a formula, e.g., 2.2.2.1, which refers to the number of dorsal spines on leg tibiae I–IV.

The following abbreviations were used in the text and figures: CA — column attachment place; CT — comb-shaped thickening; DPS — distal part of scape *sensu* Saaristo & Tanasevitch [1996]; E — embolus; EP — embolus proper *sensu* Saaristo [1971]; LC — lamella characteristica *sensu* Kulczyński [1898]; LE — lateral extension of embolus; LL — lateral lobes of scape; LW — lateral walls of epigyne; MM — median membrane *sensu* van Helsdingen [1965]; NR — Nature Reserve; P — pit; PH — pit-hook *sensu* Saaristo [1973], a specific distal suprategular apophysis *sensu* Hormiga [2000] in some micronetines; PMP — posterior median plate *sensu* van Helsdingen *et al*. [1977]; PP — posterior pocket of paracymbium *sensu* Saaristo & Tanasevitch [1996]; Pt — protegulum *sensu* Holm [1979]; R — radix; RA — radical apophysis; S — stem of embolus; SP — sabre-shaped process of distal suprategular apophysis; St — stretcher; TA — terminal apophysis *sensu* Merrett [1963]; TmI — position of trichobothrium on metatarsus I; UB —upper branch of lamella characteristica.

Taxonomy

Class Arachnida Cuvier, 1812
Order Araneae Clerck, 1757
Family Linyphiidae Blackwall, 1859
Subfamily Micronetinae Hull, 1920
Genus *Maro* O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1907

Type species *Maro minutus* O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1907, by monotypy.

DIAGNOSIS. The genus was well diagnosed and described by Saaristo [1971], but as the diagnosis at that time was only based on six European species, it requires clarification and extension.

The genus contains very small to medium-sized (total length 0.90 to 2.05), pale micronetines characterized by the following combination of somatic and genitalic characters:

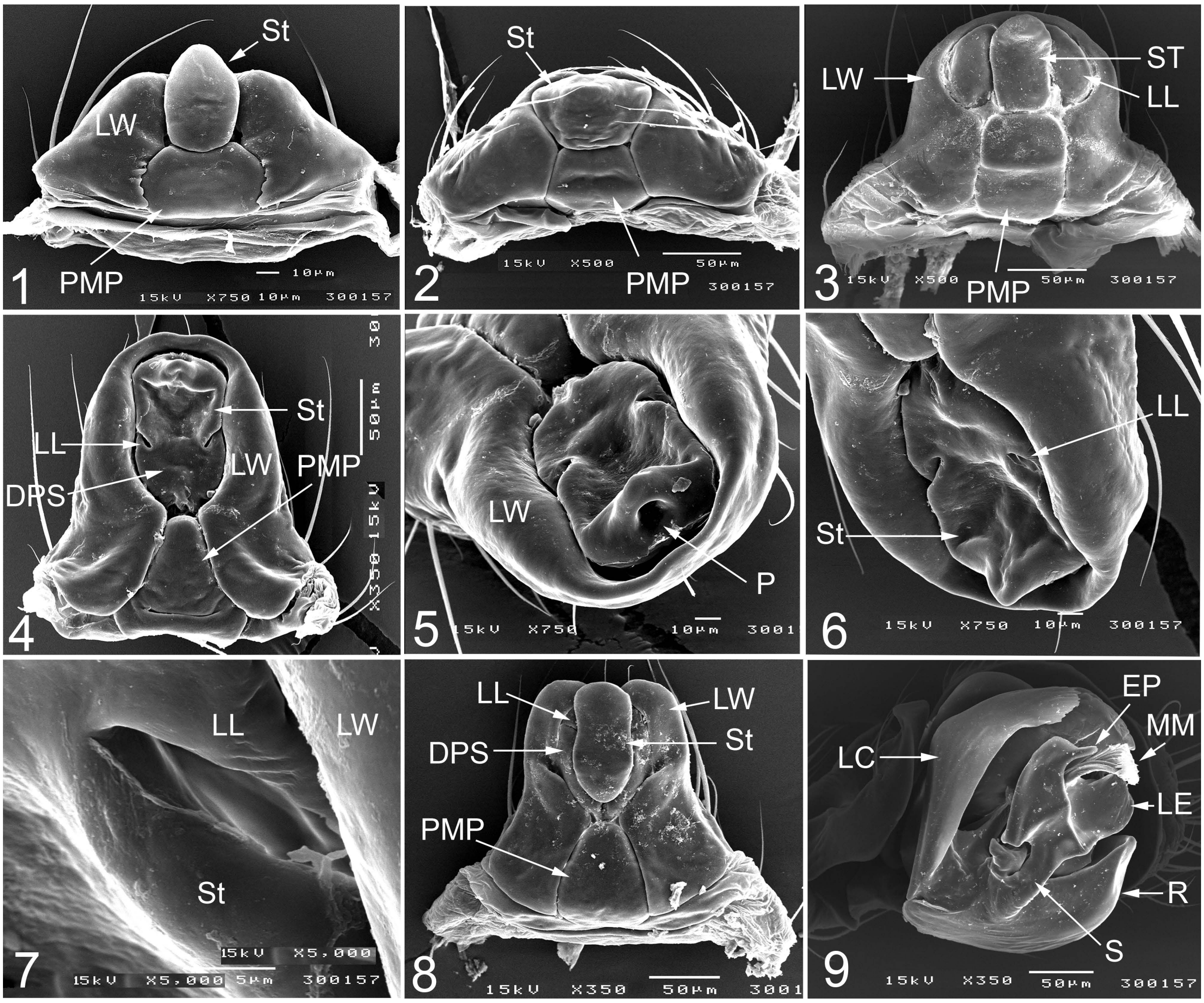
(1) Carapace and chelicerae unmodified in both sexes, a mastidion absent.

(2) Abdomen white to grey, sometimes with blackish reticulation, a distinct pattern absent.

(3) Dorsal tibial spines 2.2.2.2 or 2.2.2.1. Metatarsi I–III each with a trichobothrium. TmI 0.30–0.56. For details of somatic traits, see Table.

(4) Male palp. Patella and tibia unmodified, cymbium without posterodorsal outgrowth(s). A posterior pocket of paracymbium (see Saaristo & Tanasevitch [1996]) transformed into a large ridge (Figs 11, 12, 14). Embolic division well-developed, complex. Radix boat-shaped (Fig. 10), Fickert's gland absent, lamella characteristica large (Figs 9, 10), terminal apophysis present, embolus usually peculiar in shape (Figs 9, 10, 18, 19).

(5) Epigyne short to well protruded, aperture usually closed either by expanded lateral walls of epigyne (Figs 1, 2, 4–6) or by lateral lobes in distal part of scapus (Figs 3, 8). Proximal and median parts of scapus reduced, either only lateral lobes and a stretcher or only a stretcher present.



Figs 1–9. Scanning electron micrographs: *Maro minutus* O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1907, specimen from Volonga, Arkhangelsk Area, Russia (CAT) (1); *M. sibiricus* Eskov, 1980 (2); *M. pansibiricus* Tanasevitch, 2006 (3); *M. bureensis* Tanasevitch, 2006 (4–7, 9); *M. khabarum* Tanasevitch, 2006 (8), all specimens from Norsky NR, Amur Area, Russia (ZMMU). 1–8 — epigyne; 1–4, 8 — dorsal view, 5 — posterodorsal view; 6, 7 — dorsolateral view; 9 — embolic division, ventral view.

Рис. 1–9. Сканирующие электронные микрофотографии: *Maro minutus* O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1907, экземпляр из Волонги, Архангельская обл., Россия (CAT) (1); *M. sibiricus* Eskov, 1980 (2); *M. pansibiricus* Tanasevitch, 2006 (3); *M. bureensis* Tanasevitch, 2006 (4–7, 9); *M. khabarum* Tanasevitch, 2006 (8), все экземпляры из Норского заповедника, Амурская обл., Россия (ZMMU). 1–8 — эпигина; 1–4, 8 — вид сверху; 5 — вид сверху и сзади; 6, 7 — вид сверху и сбоку; 9 — эмболюсный отдел, вид сверху.

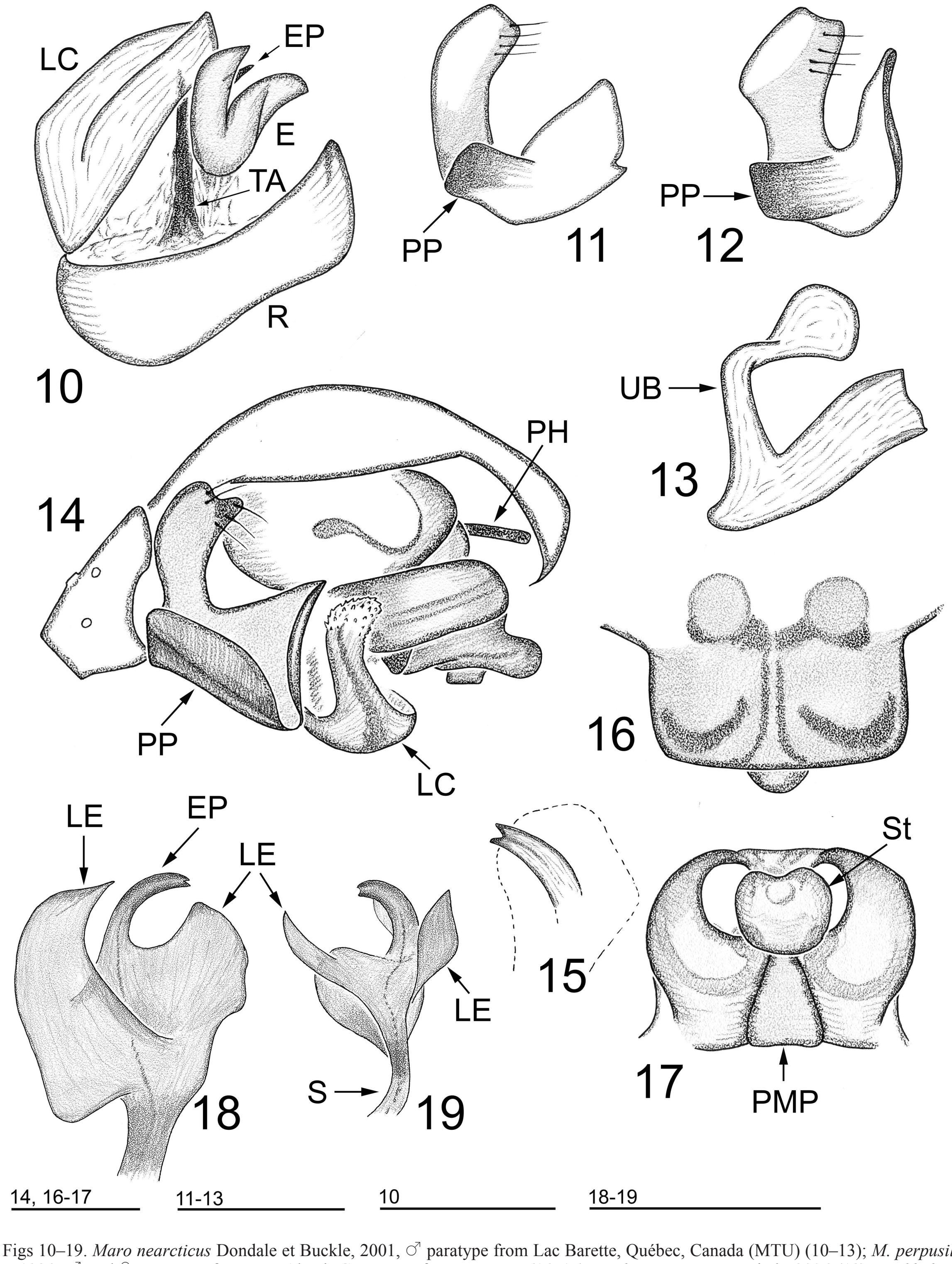
The genus *Maro* seems to be particularly close to *Oreonetides* Strand, 1901, which was well justified by Saaristo [1972], van Helsdingen [1981] and Eskov [1991]. I shall mention here only the main features of similarity: same pattern of leg chaetotaxy and trichobothriotaxy; similar structure of the complex embolic division, namely, the peculiar shape of the embolus; similar structure of the protruded epigyne with somewhat reduced parts of the scape. In turn, *Maro* differs by the boat-shaped radix, *vs* V-shaped in *Oreonetides*, a simple shape of the paracymbium (*vs* usually well-modified in *Oreonetides*) in the male (see van Helsdingen [1981]). The differences in the structure of the epigyne of both genera are still vague.

SPECIES INCLUDED. The genus presently contains 13 species: *Maro bureensis* Tanasevitch, 2006, *M. flavescens* (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1873), *M. khabarum* Tanasevitch, 2006, *M. lehtineni* Saaristo, 1971, *M. lepidus* Casemir, 1961, *M. minutus* O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1907, *M. nearcticus* Dondale et Buckle, 2001, *M. pansibiricus* Tanasevitch, 2006, *M. perpusillus* Saito, 1984, *M. saaristoi* Eskov, 1980, *M. sibiricus* Eskov, 1980, *M. sublestus* Falconer, 1915, *M. ussuricus* Tanasevitch, 2006.

Based on the structure of the genital organs, the remaining formal species, *Maro amplus* Dondale et Buckle, 2001, *M. borealis* Eskov, 1991, and *M. bulbosus* Zhao et Li, 2014, do not belong to *Maro* and are to be transferred to other genera (see below).

HABITAT. Unfortunately, we still know very little about the habitat of *Maro* representatives, and we can only say that these spiders prefer moist mossy sod and litter from the forests mainly of the boreal belt of Eurasia.

DISTRIBUTION. The Holarctic, mainly Euro-Siberian [Eskov, 1991; Tanasevitch, 2006a]; one species, *M. perpusillus*, is known from Japan [Saito 1984], one more, *M. nearcticus*, from the Nearctic [Dondale, Buckle, 2001]. For details see World Spider Catalog [2022].



Figs 10–19. *Maro nearcticus* Dondale et Buckle, 2001, ♂ paratype from Lac Barette, Québec, Canada (MTU) (10–13); *M. perpusillus* Saito, 1984, ♂ and ♀ paratypes from Mt. Akagi, Gunma Prefecture, Japan (14–17); *M. bureensis* Tanasevitch, 2006 (18); *M. khabarum* Tanasevitch, 2006, both specimens from Norsky NR, Amur Area, Russia (ZMMU) (19). 10 — embolic division, ventral view; 11, 12 — paracymbium, different aspects; 13 — lamella characteristica, ventrolateral view; 14 — ♂ palp, retrolateral view; 15 — embolus proper, mesal view; 16, 17 — epigyne, ventral and dorsal views, respectively; 18, 19 — embolus, mesal view. Figure 15 not to scale.

Рис. 10–19. *Maro nearcticus* Dondale et Buckle, 2001, паратип ♂ из Lac Barette, Квебек, Канада (MTU) (10–13); *M. perpusillus* Saito, 1984, паратипы ♂ и ♀ из Mt. Akagi, Gunma Prefecture, Япония (14–17); *M. bureensis* Tanasevitch, 2006 (18); *M. khabarum* Tanasevitch, 2006, оба экземпляра из Норского заповедника, Амурская обл., Россия (ZMMU) (19). 10 — эмболюсный отдел, вид снизу; 11, 12 — парацимбиум, различные аспекты; 13 — ламелла характеристика, вид снизу и сбоку; 14 — пальпа ♂, ретролатерально; 15 — собственно эмболюс; 16, 17 — эпигина, соответственно вид снизу и сверху; 18, 19 — эмболюс. Рис. 15 не в масштабе.

Maro nearcticus Dondale et Buckle, 2001 Figs 10–13.

2001 *Maro nearcticus*. — Dondale, Buckle: 10, figs 1–6 (♂, ♀), ♂ examined.

TYPE MATERIAL EXAMINED. Paratype ♂ (MTU), CANADA, Québec, Parc Jacques-Cartier, Lac Barette, 1VI.–10.VII.1985, leg. S. Koponen.

TAXONOMIC REMARKS. *Maro nearcticus* is very similar to the Siberian *M. sibiricus*, but differs by the shape of the upper branch of the lamella characteristica (cf. Fig. 13 and fig. 1 in Eskov [1980]).

REMARKS. The species has been described from eastern Canada and the northeastern U.S.A. [Dondale, Buckle, 2001]. According to the picture presented by Gómez-Rodríguez *et al*. [2014], their record of *M. nearcticus* from Mexico is a misidentification, and probably refers to *Mermessus* sp.

DISTRIBUTION. Québec, Ontario, New Brunswick and Newfoundland (Canada), Maine and New Hampshire (U.S.A.) [Dondale, Buckle, 2001].

Maro perpusillus Saito, 1984 Figs 14–17.

1984 *Maro perpusillus*. — Saito: 4, figs 3, 4 (♂, ♀), examined.

REMARKS. The species has been described from both sexes from the Gunma Prefecture, Honshu Island, Japan [Saito, 1984].

TYPE MATERIAL EXAMINED. Paratypes: 2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀ (NSMT-Ar. 860), JAPAN, Gunma Prefecture, Konuma, Mt. Akagi, 16.VI.1979, leg. H. Saito.

TAXONOMIC REMARKS. The male palp of *Maro perpusillus* resembles that of *M. pansibiricus*, but differs by the shape of the lamella characteristica (cf. Fig. 14 and figs 1, 3–5 in Tanasevitch [2006a]. The epigyne is similar to that of *M. flavescens*, but is distinguished by its non-concave posterior edge (cf. Fig. 16 and fig. 35 in Tanasevitch [2006a].

DISTRIBUTION. So far known from Honshu, Japan [Saito, 1984].

Oreonetides amplus (Dondale et Buckle, 2001), **comb.n.**

2001 *Maro amplus* Dondale, Buckle: 13, figs 10–14 (♂), examined.

COMPARATIVE MATERIAL EXAMINED. 2 ♂♂ (CDB), CANADA, Alberta, 20 km NW Dixonville, aspen forest, 15.VI.2000, leg. D. Shorthouse; 1 ♂ (CDB); same locality; 13.VI.2020, leg. D. Shorthouse.

TAXONOMIC REMARKS. The Nearctic *M. amplus* was originally described from males alone. Its large size (up to 2.01 mm), the high-value TmI (0.80–0.85), and the presence of a mastidion on the chelicera have long raised certain doubts as to the assignment of *amplus* to *Maro* [Dondale, Buckle, 2001]. A detailed study of the palpal structure of males of *M. amplus* from Alberta, Canada (CDB) shows that neither the palpal tibia nor the paracymbium, nor the structure of the embolic division agrees with those in *Maro*. The species, besides the somatic differences mentioned above, has a slightly modified palpal tibia bearing several outgrowths, the paracymbium totally lacking a posterior pocket, and the structure of the embolic division being rather similar to those in the genus *Oreonetides*, seemingly especially similar to *O. kolymensis* Eskov, 1991. Hence, this species is preliminary to be transferred: *Oreonetides amplus* (Dondale et Buckle, 2001) comb.n. Discovering a conspecific female may put an end to the riddle concerning the generic identity of this species, since probably this species belongs neither to *Maro* nor to *Oreonetides*.

DISTRIBUTION. Throughout Canada; Alaska, Maine and Vermont (U.S.A.) [Dondale, Buckle, 2001; Paquin *et al*., 2010].

Oreonetides bulbosus (Zhao et Li, 2014), **comb.n.**

2014 *Maro bulbosus* Zhao, Li: 30, figs 56A–F, 57A–B (♀), not seen.

TAXONOMIC REMARKS. The species was originally described from females alone, all from the extreme south of the Yunnan Province, People's Republic of China. This region is situated near the borders with Laos and Myanmar, virtually a territory in the northern part of the Oriental Region. Based on detailed figures and photographs presented in Zhao & Li [2014], the epigyne of *Maro bulbosus* seems to strongly resemble to that in some *Oreonetides*, e.g., the Far Eastern *O. badzhalensis* Eskov, 1991 or *O. minimus* Tanasevitch, 2017. The similarity is based on the somewhat protruding semi-circular epigyne with wide, ansiform entrance ducts. Hence, I dare preliminary transfer this species to *Oreonetides* Strand, 1901: *Oreonetides bulbosus* (Zhao et Li, 2014), comb.n. Only the discovery of the conspecific male is to clarify the taxonomic position of the species within linyphiids.

DISTRIBUTION. Known only from the Yunnan Province, People's Republic of China [Zhao, Li 2014].

***Boreomaro* gen.n.**

Type species *Maro borealis* Eskov, 1991, by monotypy. The type material (ZMMU) of both sexes examined.

NAME. The generic name is a combination of "boreal" and "*Maro*". The gender is masculine.

DIAGNOSIS. The genus contains medium-sized micronetines (total length 1.40–1.90) characterized by the following combination of somatic and genitalic characters:

(1) Carapace and chelicerae unmodified in both sexes, a mastidion absent.

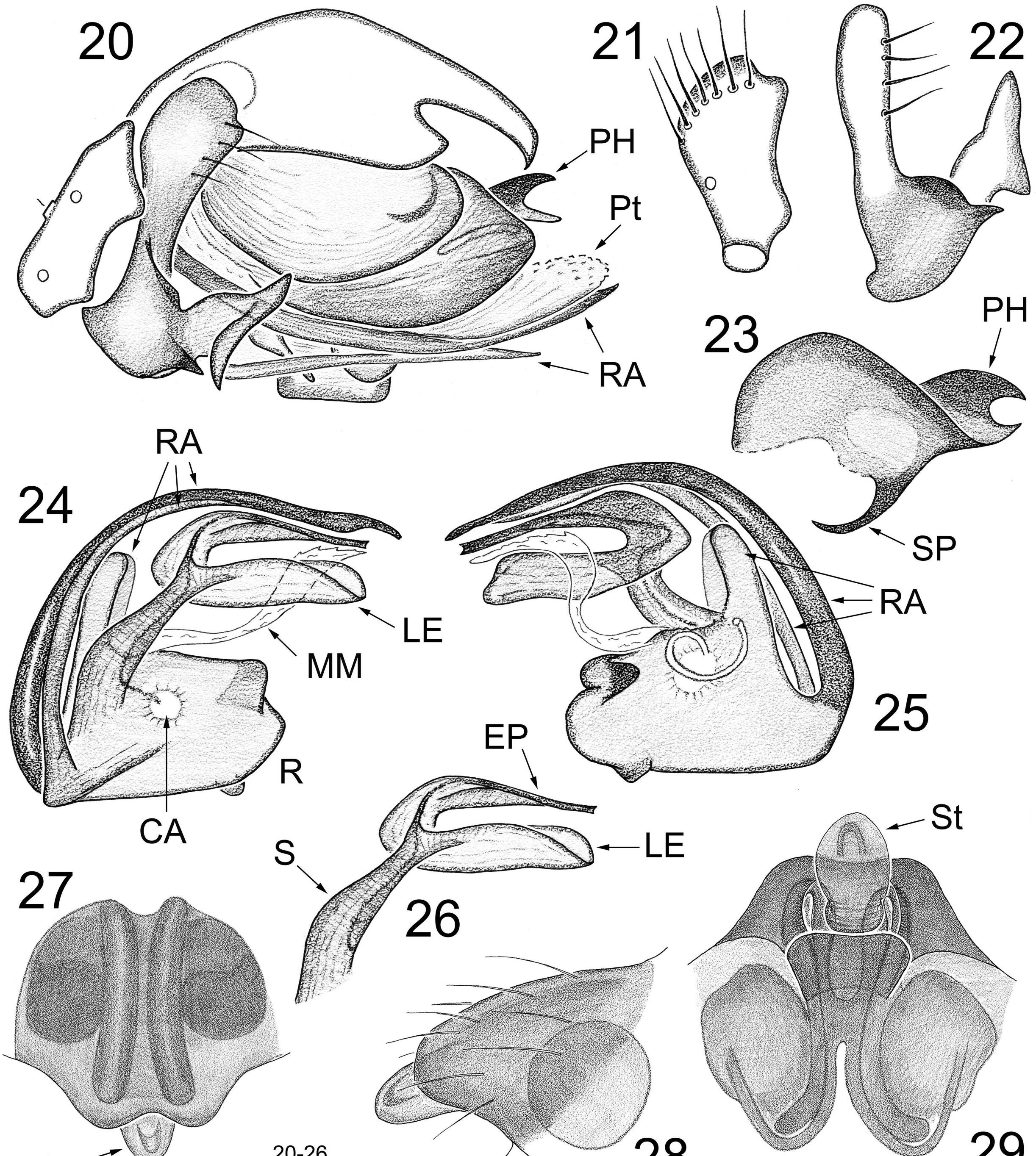
(2) Abdomen white to grey, a distinct pattern absent.

(3) Chaetotaxy 2.2.2.2; TmI 0.53–0.56; metatarsi IV without trichobothrium.

(4) Male palp. Paracymbium highly modified (Figs 20, 22); embolic division large and complex, consisting of highly modified sclerites. (Figs 24, 25); radix with several radical apophyses; lamella characteristica, terminal apophysis and Fickert's gland absent. Embolus with a stem, embolus proper exceptionally long (Fig. 26). NOTE: It is possible that the radical apophysis(es) at the place where the lamella characteristica is usually located is(are) a strongly transformed lamella characteristica.

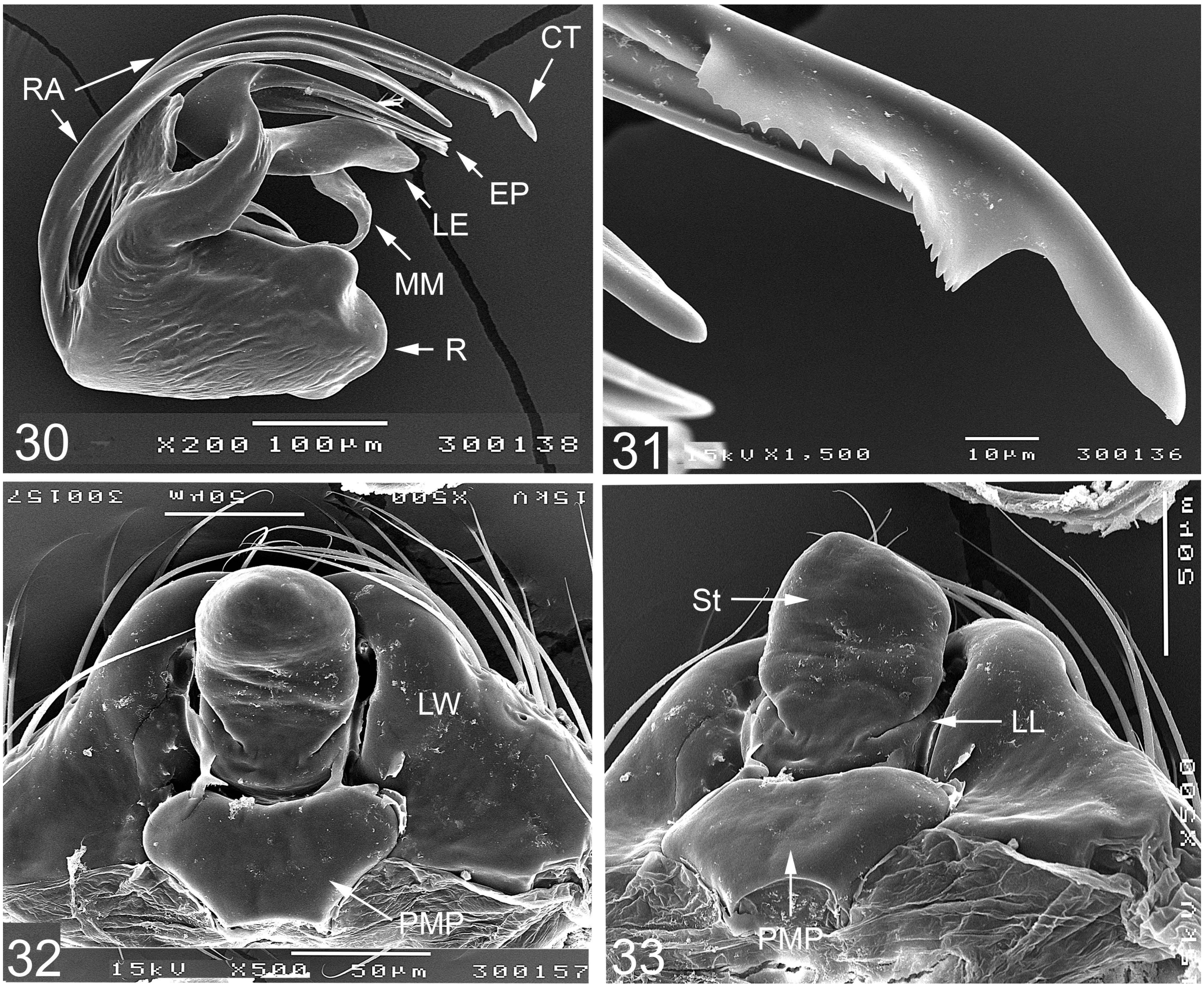
(5) Epigyne short, proximal and median parts of scape reduced, lateral lobes absent, receptacles very large, subspherical (Figs 27–29, 32, 33).

TAXONOMIC REMARKS. *Boreomaro* gen.n. resembles *Maro* by the structure of the epigyne alone, while the male palp, in particular the embolic division, strongly differs, except for the embolus which has a stem. Unlike *Maro*, the radix in the new genus is not boat-shaped, with long apophyses conducting and protecting the extended embolus proper. Unlike *Maro*, a lamella characteristica and a termi-



Figs 20–29. *Boreomaro borealis* (Eskov, 1991), comb.n., specimens from Norsky NR, Amur Area, Russia (ZMMU). 20 — ♂ palp, retrolateral view; 21 — palpal tibia, dorsal view; 22 — paracymbium, lateral view; 23 — suprategulum and pit-hook, lateral view; 24, 25 — embolic division, ventrolateral and ventro-retrolateral views, respectively; 26 — embolus, ventrolateral view; 27–29 — epigyne, ventral, lateral and dorsal views, respectively.

Рис. 20–29. *Boreomaro borealis* (Eskov, 1991), comb.n., экземпляр из Норского заповедника, Амурская обл., Россия (ZMMU). 20 — пальпа ♂, ретролатерально; 21 — голень пальпы ♂, вид сверху; 22 — парацимбиум, вид сбоку; 23 — супратегулюм и питхук, вид сбоку; 24, 25 — эмболюсный отдел, соответственно вентролатерально и вентро-ретролатерально; 26 — эмболюс, вид снизу и сбоку; 27–29 — эпигина, соответственно вид снизу, сбоку и сверху.



Figs 30–33. Scanning electron micrographs: *Boreomaro borealis* (Eskov, 1991), comb.n., specimens from Norsky NR, Amur Area, Russia (ZMMU). 30 — embolic division, ventrolateral view; 31 — comb-shaped thickening on apex of radical apophysis; 32, 33 — epigyne, dorsal view, different aspects.

Figs 30–33. Сканирующие электронные микрофотографии: *Boreomaro borealis* (Eskov, 1991), comb.n., экземпляр из Норского заповедника, Амурская обл., Россия (ZMMU). 30 — эмболюсный отдел, вид снизу и сбоку; 31 — гребёнковидное расширение радикальной апофизы; 32, 33 — эпигина, вид сверху, различные аспекты.

nal apophysis are absent, but see the note above. The highly modified paracymbium is similar to that in *Erigomicronus* Tanasevitch, 2018, a representative of the subfamily Erigoninae. Apparently, this genus is not too close to *Maro*, but at the moment it is difficult to specify its closest kin.

DESCRIPTION. Small to median-sized micronetines, total length 1.40–1.90. Carapace unmodified in both sexes. Chaetotaxy 2.2.2.2. TmI ca. 0.55. Metatarsus IV without trichobothrium. Male palp (Figs 20–26): tibia small, unmodified. Cymbium without posterodorsal extension(s). Paracymbium highly modified: slender, V-shaped, with several cone- and tooth-shaped outgrowths. Suprategulum with a long, curved, sabre-shaped process; pit-hook strong, bifid. Tegulum with a wide protegulum, extending forward. Median membrane long, ribbon-shaped, almost transparent. Embolic division complex, consisting of highly modified sclerites. Radix with three radical apophyses, one relatively short, rounded apically, both others located close together, very long, slender and curved; the longest ending with a comb-shaped thickening (Figs 30, 31). Attachment place of column and radix clearly visible as a light rounded hole. Seminal duct entering through this hole to radix and passing on to embolus. Embolus with a long and thin stem, divided distally into a long embolus proper and its well-protruding lateral extension. Epigyne (Figs 27–29, 32, 33) slightly protruded, aperture covered with lateral walls. Scape represented by its distal part only, lateral lobes present, small, stretcher short and thick. Copulatory ducts thick, well-visible through integument of anterior wall of Epigyne, receptacles very large, subspherical.

SPECIES INCLUDED. Only the type species, *Boreomaro borealis* (Eskov, 1991), **comb.n.**

DISTRIBUTION. Siberia, Russia: from Yenisey River east to the Kolyma River basin, Amurskaya and Khabarovsk provinces, Sakhalin Island (Eskov [1991], Tanasevitch & Trilikauskas [2004], Tanasevitch [2006b], Trilikauskas & Tanasevitch [2006]).

Discussion

The first revision of the genus *Maro* was released by Saaristo [1971] based on only six species known at that time, five of which treated as European. Since the

beginning of the 1980s, an intensive study of the spiders of Siberia and the Russian Far East started, associated with the emergence of a new pleiad of Soviet and Russian arachnologists (see Mikhailov [2016]). This allowed for not only the knowledge of the distribution areas of the six known *Maro* to be expanded, but also seven additional new species to be discovered in Asia.

The question arose concerning the homogeneity of the genus. I tried to answer this question based on a comparative analysis of the genital structures. This analysis became possible only thanks to M.I. Saaristo [1971, 1972, 1973, etc.], who provided a detailed study of the structure of the genitalia of both sexes, not only of *Maro*, but also of many other micronetine groups. This time-consuming study ensured subsequent substantial progress in the taxonomy of the subfamily Micronetinae *sensu* Saaristo & Tanasevitch [1996]. Especially valuable was Saaristo's atlas showing the embolic division of various micronetines, in which homologous structures were presented using the same colour. Unfortunately, this atlas was published only posthumously by Marusik & Koponen [2007]. The comparative morphological approach used in that paper has revealed two species as not belonging to *Maro*, both being transferred to *Oreonetides*, as well as a new genus established for one marginal species.

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